

Protection of St. Mary's  
Russian Orthodox Church  
Aniak  
Alaska

HABS No. AK-79

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Building Survey  
National Park Service  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PROTECTION OF ST. MARY'S RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

HABS No. AK-79

- Location: Aniak, south side of Kuskokwim River, Alaska.
- Significance: Protection of St. Mary's is a modest church, seemingly constructed and repaired with whatever materials were available. Nonetheless, it has a standard linear arrangement of sanctuary, nave, and vestibule, and a symmetrical alignment under a gable roof.
- Description: The wood-framed building measures 17'-2" x 39'-3". The walls are covered with asphalt in a brick design, on top of tarpaper, on top of planks. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal and topped with two cupolas supporting onion domes, and an open belfry at the west end of the nave. The windows are a variety of sizes.
- On the interior, the nave is one open space, separated from the sanctuary on the east by the iconostas, which is made of plywood. The vestibule, unfinished on the interior, is on the west. The walls of the nave are covered with plywood, and the tray ceiling is covered with celotex. There is no electricity, and heat is from a wood-fired barrel stove.
- History: The church was built in 1948-1949 by Kelila Cemach.
- Sources: Evin Kelila, church member, interviewed by author, May 23, 1990.
- Historian: Alison K. Hoagland, HABS Historian, 1990.